

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-07 /016 W

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R 131200Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2146

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 2072

FOR USDOC/MEPD ATTN: J. PHILBRICK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BAGB, BENC, SU

SUBJ: MAJOR PRODUCTS: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SUDAN

REF: STATE 148237

1. EMBOFF JUNE 29 CALLED ON GOS OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN SETTING UP ARAB AUTHORITY FOR AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (AAAID) TO INVESTIGATE STATUS OF ORGANIZATION, BUT COULD DEVELOP NO DETAILED INFORMATION. GOS OFFICIAL STATED THAT FINAL AGREEMENT ON AAID HAD NOT BEEN SIGNED AND THAT SPECIFIC PROJECTS WERE NOT YET IDENTIFIED. OFFICIAL WOULD GIVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON ORGANIZATION.

2. MOST OF INFORMATION IN VARIOUS U.S. PUBLICATIONS (REFTEL) HAS APPEARED IN SUDANESE PRESS. ONLY 11 OF 61 PROJECTS REPORTEDLY BEING FINANCED BY AAAID HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED. ALL 11 ARE BELIEVED TO BE PART OF NEW GOS SIX-YEAR PLAN WHICH IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. TWO HAVE BEEN REPORTED: JONGLEI CANAL (74 KHARTOUM 2-119) AND SETIT HUMERA (KHARTOUM 2028). EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP DETAILS ON OTHER NINE PROJECTS. AIRGRAM ON AAAID TO FOLLOW.

3. RAHMATALLA ABDULLA IS FORMER SUDANESE REPRESENTATIVE TO UN, BUT IS NOT RETIRED FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND IN PRIVATE BUSINESS. HE ALSO REPRESENTS FRENCH OIL
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MILL (US FIRM) IN SUDAN AND, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, RELATIONSHIP

HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY. PLEASE ADVISE IF REQUESTING
WTDR ON RAHMATALLA ABDULLA BUSINESS BUREAU (RABB).

4. BELIEVE GROUP VISIT BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS BEST
APPROACH TO GRAIN STORAGE PROJECT. OCTOBER BEST MONTH
FOR VISIT SINCE EMBASSY WILL AGAIN HAVE FULL STAFF.
COULD SUPPORT VISIT IN EARLY TO MID-AUGUST IF MISSION
WELL-PLANNED, BUT MANY GOS OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN
PROBABLY STILL UNAVAILABLE. SEPTEMBER UNACCEPTABLE
DUE TO MAJOR RELIGIOUS FASTING MONTH, RAMADAN. SUGGEST
CONSORTIUM MEMBERS DISCUSS MEANS OF FINANCING PROJECT
AND HAVE PROPOSAL AVAILABLE SINCE FINANCING CONTINUES
TO BE KEY FACTOR FOR DOING BUSINESS IN SUDAN.

5. SUGGEST THAT MEPD CONSIDER CONSOLIDATING POSTPONED
AGRIBUSINESS TASK FORCE VISIT WITH GRAIN STORAGE
CONSORTIUM VISIT OR SCHEDULING TASK FORCE FOR EARLY
1977. EMBASSY NOW HAS TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES IN
NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. PLEASE
ADVISE. BREWER

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